

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0543\_13**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Parenting payments – impacts of legislation change***

Will the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations be monitoring the impacts of the legislation change?

If yes, what will be monitored and how will it be reported? Will the following be assessed?

- Housing and homelessness?
- Impact on support services?
- Workforce participation?
- Access to healthcare card?

**Answer**

The changes to Parenting Payment from 1 January 2013 were announced as part of the 2012-13 Budget and build on the changes introduced as part of the Building Australia's Future Workforce (BAFW) package announced in the 2011-12 Budget.

The Department will evaluate the overall BAFW package to assess the impact it has on the individuals, families, services and industries that it is designed to affect. The evaluation will also examine the three interrelated streams of the package (skills, workforce participation and place-based) to consider the collective impact of the suite of measures within each stream. The Parenting Payment reforms, including the most recent changes, are included in the workforce participation stream.

BAFW evaluation reports will be prepared for Ministers with an interim evaluation report to be finalised in December 2013 and a final evaluation report to be finalised in October 2014.

The ongoing Parenting Payment and Newstart Allowance programs will continue to be monitored by the Department as they are now, including the effects of policy and program changes.